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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 7 PERCENT

HARRISBURG --- Wool production in **Pennsylvania** during 1999 totaled 435,000 pounds, down 7 percent from the 470,000 pounds produced in 1998, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. A total of 66,000 sheep and lambs were shorn during the year, down 4 percent from the previous year. Average fleece weight of 6.6 pounds was down 3 percent from last year.

The total value of the wool production in 1999 was \$139,000, down 37 percent from the \$221,000 value of production in 1998. Producers received an average of 32 cents per pound for wool in 1999, compared with 47 cents per pound in 1998.

Shorn wool production in the **United States** during 1999 was 46.5 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1998. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.15 million head, a decrease of 4 percent from the previous year. Average fleece weight of shorn wool was 7.6 pounds per head, down 1 percent from a year ago. The average price paid for wool sold in 1999 was \$0.38 per pound for a total value of \$17.9 million, down 39 percent from \$29.4 million in 1998.

Mohair production in the major producing states of Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas during 1999 was 2.90 million pounds, down 43 percent from 1998. Goats and kids clipped at 444,000 head, down 37 percent from 1998. Average mohair weight per clip was 6.5 pounds compared with 7.2 pounds in 1998. The value of mohair produced totaled \$10.0 million in 1999, down 20 percent from 1998.